(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) No Sir, There is no such proposal under consideration.

As per TRAI Act 1997, only the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has been mandated with the power of tariff fixation. TRAI, in its 20th Amendment dated 14.03.2002 to Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999, have lowered the ceilings of the rate of STD & ISD calls with effect from 01-04-2002. As per this Amendment, the ceiling for the pulse rate for calls beyond 500 kms was reduced to 4.6 seconds, and for calls beyond 1000 kms to 3.5 seconds. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, as a Public Sector National Long Distance Operator, had already reduced the STD tariff with effect from 14.01.2002 to a level below the ceilings specified by TRAI in its aforesaid order. As per BSNL's orders, which came into effect from 14.01.02, only one pulse rate exists and is 8 seconds for all calls beyond 500 kms during peak hours.

Working of Mobile Phone Companies

†3800. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mobile Phone Companies of the country are working with the 400 mobile phone companies of 171 countries under the Global System for Mobile Communication;

(b) if so, whether these companies are contravening provisions of the Copyright Act by making use of phone chesis number system under the provisions of the Act without permission; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, as per the information provided by Cellular Operators Association of India, Cellular Operators in India have established Roaming Links with the various International Cellular Mobile Telephone Operators, to facilitate their subscribers with seamless roaming services. These agreements are set up as per GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) roaming agreements.

(b) It is presumed that, 'mobile phone chasis' refers to the IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identification) number of a mobile handset. These numbers are allotted by the handset manufacturers themselves. Cellular Mobile Telephone Operators are providing services within their scope of licence and are not violating any copyright law while providing International Roaming Services.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras in Andhra Pradesh

3801. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats presently availing the facility of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether any target for setting up of new PSSKs has been fixed for the State for 2001-2002; and

(c) if so, the status of the target, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 150 Gram Panchayats are presently availing the facility of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in Andhra Pradesh. District-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) A target of opening of 30 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras was fixed for the State for 2001-2002.